

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
September 2002**

Monitoring Neotropical and Migratory Birds in Alaska

16 May 2001–15 May 2002

John M. Wright

**Annual Research Performance Report
Endangered Species Conservation Fund
Federal Aid Project E-1-1-1**

If using information from this report, the reference may include the following: Wright, J.M. 2002. Monitoring Neotropical and migratory birds in Alaska, May 2001–May 2002. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Federal aid annual research report. Endangered Species Conservation Fund study E-1-1-1. Juneau, Alaska.

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL RESEARCH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

PROJECT TITLE: Monitoring Neotropical Migratory Birds in Alaska

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: John Wright

COOPERATORS: Alaska Bird Observatory, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Boreal *Partners in Flight*, Friends of Creamer's Field, Bureau of Land Management

FEDERAL AID GRANT PROGRAM: Endangered Species Section 6

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: E-1-1

PROJECT NR.: 1.0

WORK LOCATION: Creamer's Field, Fairbanks.

STATE: Alaska

PERIOD: 16 May 2001 – 15 May 2002

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES IN THIS PERIOD

OBJECTIVE 1: Gather information in spring and fall 2001 on the abundance and productivity of migratory songbirds as part of a long-term monitoring project in the boreal forest of central Alaska.

An array of mist nets was used to capture birds. Nets were opened about 6 hours each day, from sunrise to around noon, weather permitting. Abundance was measured in spring and fall with productivity measured only in fall.

In spring 2001, nets were operated on 34 days between 25 April and 7 June for a total of 5137 net hours. Four hundred and fifty-four birds were captured, belonging to 29 species. Seventy-two percent of the species captured were Neotropical migrants. Sixty-six percent of the individuals captured were Neotropical migrants. The most frequently captured species were the common redpoll, yellow-rumped warbler, violet-green swallow, American robin, yellow warbler, and dark-eyed junco. The overall capture rate in spring 2001 was nearly 18% above the 10-year average. Seven common species were captured at higher rates than their average, while 9 were captured at rates lower than average.

In fall 2001, nets were operated for 57 days between 15 July and 23 September for a total of 11,821 net hours, just 2.5% below the average of the prior 3 years. A total of 2485 birds were captured, with 33 species represented. As in prior years, a high proportion of species captured (66%) was Neotropical migrants. Neotropical migrants also comprised the

majority of individuals captured. The yellow-rumped warbler, orange-crowned warbler, dark-eyed junco, American tree sparrow, and Lincoln's sparrow were captured most frequently.

In fall 2001, 91% of birds captured were young of the year (HY, hatch year). This is higher than the 10-year average (88%). The proportion of young in 7 of the 19 commonly captured species was higher in 2001 than the 10-year average, in just 2 species the proportion of young was lower than average, and 10 species were close to average.

OBJECTIVE 2: Collect information on timing of migration, breeding, and molt for a variety of landbirds breeding in central Alaska.

Information on timing of migration, molt, and fat storage from data collected at the Creamer's Migration Station was recently reported in Benson and Winker 2001. (See section on publications.)

II. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

None.

III. PUBLICATIONS

BENSON A-M AND K WINKER. 2001. Timing of breeding range occupancy among high latitude passerine migrants. *Auk* 118:513-519.

IV. APPENDIX See attached detailed report.

V. PROJECT COSTS FOR THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

FEDERAL AID SHARE \$ 20,000 STATE SHARE \$ 6,667 = TOTAL \$26,667

VI. PREPARED BY:

John Wright
Wildlife Biologist III

SUBMITTED BY:

Patrick Valkenburg
Research Coordinator

APPROVED BY:

Tom Paul
Federal Aid Coordinator
Division of Wildlife Conservation

Wayne L Regelin, Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation